

that an interview and proofs are required to complete the FS application process. Outreach Partners will give this form to clients once the FS application has been submitted to DTA.

09-430-0507-05

FSOP-MEB (5/2007)

Claiming and Verifying Medical Expenses May Increase Your Food Budget

The brochure discusses the medical expense deduction for FS and lists medical expenses which may be claimed and verified to increase FS benefits. Verified medical costs are used as a deduction from income when calculating FS benefits. Low income elders in particular can benefit from the medical expense deduction.

09-427-0507-05

FSOP-MECL (5/2007)

Food Stamp Outreach Partner Medical Expense Checklist

The Medical Expense Checklist complements the brochure. The checklist has specific categories that identify the type of medical cost and the amount to better assist applicants in providing medical expense information. Elder advocates and other Outreach Partners will help applicants complete the checklist and assist in gathering necessary proofs. The checklist will be sent to DTA along with other application materials. Upon receipt of a checklist, the AU Manager may explore medical expenses with the applicant and request proofs needed to maximize FS benefits for the elderly and disabled population.

The Medical Expense Receipt Envelope was created to assist applicants and recipients in gathering medical proofs. These envelopes were distributed at the trainings and will be shared with elders at Councils on Aging and Senior Centers.

From the Hotline

The questions below pertain to battered noncitizens and their families. For additional information on this topic, please reference Field Operations Memo 2005-22 and the FYI in this month's Transitions.

Reminder: In all cases, refer battered noncitizens to the Domestic Violence Specialist, even when there is no verification related to the battered noncitizen status.

- Q.** In the TAFDC and FS Programs, if a person has an eligible noncitizen status, such as Asylee, Cuban/Haitian, Amerasian, Refugee or Deportation Withheld, and is also a victim of domestic violence, must I still require the battered noncitizen verifications?
- A.** No. If a person has an eligible noncitizen status, verification of the battered noncitizen status is not required.
- Q.** A mother applying for food stamp benefits does not qualify as a battered non-citizen because she does not meet the program's five year LPR requirement. Can her LPR children still qualify for food stamp benefits?
- A.** Yes. For this mother to qualify as a battered non-citizen in the Food Stamp Program, she must have resided in the United States as a qualified noncitizen for five years or meet one of the other requirements in 106 CMR 362.220(B)(8)(e). But her children may still be eligible LPRs because they are under age 18. Refer to 106 CMR 362.220(B)(7).